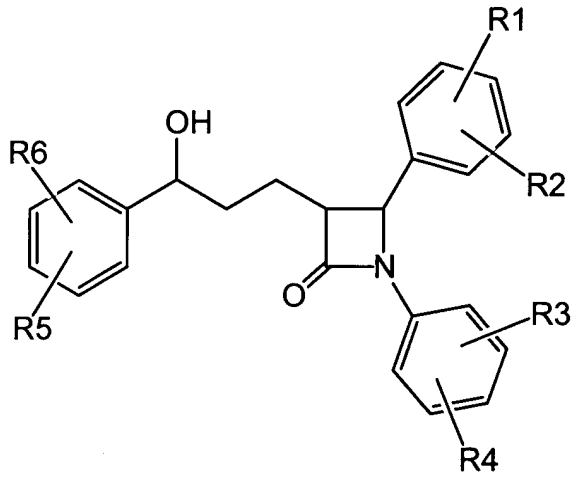
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A compound of the formula I,



I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,

in which

R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6 independently of one another are (C_0-C_{30})-alkylene-(LAG), where one or more carbon atoms of the alkylene radical may be replaced by -O-, -(C=O)-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, -N((C_1-C_6)-alkyl)-, -N((C_1-C_6)-alkylphenyl)- or -NH-; or

H, F, Cl, Br, I, CF_3, NO_2, CN, COOH, COO(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, $CONH_2$, CONH(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, CON[(C_1-C_6)-alky]$_2$, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkynyl or O-(C_1-C_6)-

alkyl, where one, more or all hydrogens in the alkyl radicals may be replaced by fluorine; or

SO_2-NH_2, $SO_2NH(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl, $SO_2N[(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl$]_2$, S-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl, S-$(CH_2)_n$-phenyl, SO-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl, SO-$(CH_2)_n$-phenyl, SO_2-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl or SO_2-$(CH_2)_n$-phenyl, where n = 0 – 6 and the phenyl radical may be substituted up to two times by F, Cl, Br, OH, CF_3, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, O-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl or NH_2; or

NH_2, NH-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl, $N((C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl$)_2$, $NH(C_1$-$C_7)$-acyl, phenyl, O-$(CH_2)_n$-phenyl, where n = 0 – 6, where the phenyl ring may be mono- to trisubstituted by F, Cl, Br, I, OH, CF_3, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, O-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl, NH_2, $NH(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl, $N((C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl$)_2$, SO_2-CH_3, COOH, COO-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl or $CONH_2$;

(LAG) is a sugar residue, disugar residue, trisugar residue, tetrasugar residue; a sugar acid, an amino sugar;

an amino acid residue, an oligopeptide residue comprising 2 to 9 amino acids;

a trialkylammoniumalkyl radical; or -O-(SO_2)-OH;

wherein at least one of the radicals R1 to R6 has the meaning $(C_0$-$C_{30})$-alkylene-(LAG), where one or more carbon atoms of the alkylene radical may be replaced by -O-, -(C=O)-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, -N($(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl)-, -N($(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkylphenyl)- or -NH-, and where the radicals R1 and R2 may not have the meaning -O-sugar residue or -O-sugar acid.

2. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein

R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6 independently of one another are $(C_0$-$C_{30})$-

alkylene-(LAG), where one or more carbon atoms of the alkylene radical may be replaced by -O-, -(C=O)-, -N($(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl)- or -NH-; or

H, F, Cl, Br, I, CF_3, NO_2, CN, COOH, COO(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, $CONH_2$, CONH(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, CON[(C_1-C_6)-alkyl]$_2$, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkynyl or O-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, where one, more or all hydrogens in the alkyl radicals may be replaced by fluorine; or

SO_2-NH_2, SO_2NH(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, SO_2N[(C_1-C_6)-alkyl]$_2$, S-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, S-$(CH_2)_n$-phenyl, SO-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, SO-$(CH_2)_n$-phenyl, SO_2-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl or SO_2-$(CH_2)_n$-phenyl, where n = 0 - 6 and the phenyl radical may be substituted up to two times by F, Cl, Br, OH, CF_3, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, O-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl or NH_2; or

NH_2, NH-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, N((C_1-C_6)-alkyl)$_2$, NH(C_1-C_7)-acyl, phenyl or O-$(CH_2)_n$-phenyl, where n = 0 – 6 and the phenyl ring may be mono- to trisubstituted by F, Cl, Br, I, OH, CF_3, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, O-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, NH_2, NH(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, N((C_1-C_6)-alkyl)$_2$, SO_2-CH_3, COOH, COO-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl or $CONH_2$;

(LAG) is a sugar residue, disugar residue, trisugar residue, tetrasugar residue; a sugar acid, an amino sugar;

an amino acid residue, an oligopeptide residue comprising 2 to 9 amino acids;

a trialkylammoniumalkyl radical; or -O-(SO_2)-OH;

wherein at least one of the radicals R1 to R6 has the meaning (C_0-C_{30})-alkylene-(LAG), where one or more carbon atoms of the alkylene radical may be replaced by -O-,

-(C=O)-, -N((C_1-C_6)-alkyl)- or -NH-, and where the radicals R1 and R2 may not have the meaning -O-sugar residue or -O-sugar acid.

3. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein

R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6 independently of one another are (C_0-C_{30})-alkylene-(LAG), where one or more carbon atoms of the alkylene radical may be replaced by -O-, -(C=O)-, -N(C_3)- or -NH-; or

H, F, Cl, Br, I, CF_3, NO_2, CN, COOH, COO(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, $CONH_2$, CONH(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, CON[(C_1-C_6)-alkyl]$_2$, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkynyl or O-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, where one, more or all hydrogens in the alkyl radicals may be replaced by fluorine; or

SO_2-NH_2, SO_2NH(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, SO_2N[(C_1-C_6)-alkyl]$_2$, S-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, S-(CH_2)$_n$-phenyl, SO-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, SO-(CH_2)$_n$-phenyl, SO_2-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl or SO_2-(CH_2)$_n$-phenyl, where n = 0 – 6 and the phenyl radical may be substituted up to two times by F, Cl, Br, OH, CF_3, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, O-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl or NH_2; or

NH_2, NH-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, N((C_1-C_6)-alkyl)$_2$, NH(C_1-C_7)-acyl, phenyl or O-(CH_2)$_n$-phenyl, where n = 0 – 6 and the phenyl ring may be mono- to trisubstituted by F, Cl, Br, I, OH, CF_3, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, O-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, NH_2, NH(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, N((C_1-C_6)-alkyl)$_2$, SO_2-CH_3, COOH, COO-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl or $CONH_2$;

(LAG) is a sugar residue, disugar residue, trisugar residue, tetrasugar residue; a sugar acid; an amino sugar;

an amino acid residue, an oligopeptide residue comprising 2 to 9 amino acids;

a trialkylammoniumalkyl radical; or -O-(SO_2)-OH;

wherein at least one of the radicals R1 or R6 has the meaning (C_0-C_{30})-alkylene-(LAG), where one or more carbon atoms of the alkylene radical may be replaced by -O-, -(C=O)-, -N(CH_3)- or -NH-, and where the radicals R1 and R2 may not have the meaning -O-sugar residue or -O-sugar acid.

4. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein

R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6 independently of one another are

-(CH_2)$_{0-1}$-NH-(C=O)$_{0-1}$-(C_3-C_{25})-alkylene-(C=O)$_{0-1}$-N(R7)$_{0-1}$-LAG,where one or more carbon atoms of the alkylene radical may be replaced by oxygen atoms, or

H, F, Cl, Br, I, CF_3, NO_2, CN, COOH, COO(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, $CONH_2$, CONH(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, CON[(C_1-C_6)-alkyl]$_2$, (C_1-C_6,)-alkyl, (C_2-C_6,)-alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkynyl or O-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, where one, more or all hydrogens in the alkyl radicals may be replaced by fluorine; or

SO_2-NH_2, SO_2NH(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, SO_2N[(C_1-C_6)-alkyl]$_2$, S-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, S-(CH_2)$_n$-phenyl, SO-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, SO-(CH_2)$_n$-phenyl, SO_2-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl or SO_2-(CH_2)$_n$-phenyl, where n = 0 – 6 and the phenyl radical may be substituted up to two times by F, Cl, Br, OH, CF_3, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, O-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl or NH_2; or

NH_2, NH-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, N((C_1-C_6)-alkyl)$_2$, NH(C_1-C_7)acyl, phenyl or O-(CH_2)$_n$-phenyl, where n = 0 - 6 and the phenyl ring may be mono- to trisubstituted by F, Cl, Br, I, OH, CF_3, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, O-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, NH_2, NH(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, N((C_1-C_6)-alkyl)$_2$, SO_2-CH_3, COOH, COO-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl or $CONH_2$;

R7 is H or CH_3;

(LAG) is a sugar residue;

where one of the radicals R1 or R3 has the meaning $-(CH_2)_{0-1}-NH-(C=O)_{0-1}-(C_3-C_{25})$-alkylene-$(C=O)_{0-1}-N(R7)_{0-1}$-LAG, where one or more carbon atoms of the alkylene radical may be replaced by oxygen atoms.

5. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more of the compounds as claimed in claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A method for the treatment of impaired lipid metabolism, which comprises administering to a host in need of the treatment an effective amount of at least one compound as claimed in claim 1.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) A method for the treatment of hyperlipidemia, which comprises administering to a host in need of the treatment an effective amount of at least one compound as claimed in claim 1.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) A method for lowering or maintaining a desired level of serum cholesterol concentration in a host, which comprises administering to the host in need of lowering or maintaining of serum cholesterol concentration an effective amount of at least one compound as claimed in claim 1.

14. (Previously Presented) A method for treating insulin resistance, which comprises administering to a host in need of the treatment an effective amount of at least one compound as claimed in claim 1.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)